Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A purification apparatus for a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,

an absorbent placed between said first and second filter layers and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

and electrode ~~equipments~~ equipment for electrically charging a direct current through said liquid to be treated and generating OH ions in the liquid,

and in that it is designed such that the OH ions generated by said electrode equipments as well as the hydroxyl group in said absorbent are bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, particles flocculated in this manner are aggregated, and then trapped by said second filter layer.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A purification apparatus for a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,

an absorbent placed between said first and second filter layers and containing a powdery cellulose,

and electrode ~~equipments~~ equipment for electrically charging a direct current through said liquid to be treated and generating OH ions in the liquid to be treated,

and in that it is designed such that the OH ions generated by said electrode equipments is bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, particles flocculated in this manner are trapped by said absorbent and said second filter layer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus according to anyone of claims [[2]] 3 to 4, wherein said metal ions are heavy metal ions.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A process for purifying a liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a first filter layer,

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said first filter layer is passed through a layer of an absorbent placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently thereto, and comprising at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

step in which said metal ions [[is]] are bound by further passing the liquid to be treated passed through the layer of absorbent through a layer of the second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently thereto causing flocculation, and further aggregating the flocculated particles so that a mass is formed, and

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said layer of absorbent is trapped by a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently thereto.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A process for purifying a liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a first filter layer,

step in which a direct current is electrically charged through said liquid to be treated so that OH ions [[is]] are generated in the liquid to be treated,

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said first filter layer is passed through a layer of an absorbent placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently thereto, and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and magnesium hydroxide,

step in which the OH ions generated by said electric current as well as a hydroxyl group in said absorbent are bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, and further flocculated particles are aggregated,

and

step in which an aggregate formed in said aggregation is trapped by a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently thereto.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A process for purifying a liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a first filter layer,

step in which a direct current is electrically charged through said liquid to be treated so that OH ions [[is]] are generated in the liquid to be treated,

step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said first filter layer is passed through a layer of an absorbent placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently thereto, and containing powdery cellulose,

step in which the OH ions generated by said electric current [[is]] are bound to the metal ions in the liquid resulting in flocculation, and

step in which particles flocculated in this manner are trapped by said layer of absorbent and a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently thereto.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process according to anyone of claims 7 to 9, wherein said metal ions [[is a]] are

heavy metal ions.